United Nations A/57/612

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 November 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 120
United Nations common system

Strengthening of the international civil service

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

Pursuant to section III of General Assembly resolution 56/244 of 24 December 2001, the Secretary-General, after consultation with the Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission, submits, in the present report, the requested timetable as well as the terms of reference for and composition of the panel on the strengthening of the international civil service.

* The delay in submission of the report is due to the time required for the necessary consultations.

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Introduction

1. Under article 1 of its Statute, the International Civil Service Commission was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations for the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system.

2. In section III of its resolution 56/244 of 24 December 2001, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission, to submit a timetable for the implementation of the review of the strengthening of the international civil service to the Assembly at the main part of its fifty-seventh session.

3. After consultations with the Chairman of the Commission, the Secretary-General submits the terms of reference for and composition of the panel that will conduct the review as well as the requested timetable.

Terms of reference for the panel on the strengthening of the international civil service

Objective

4. The review should be a focused process firmly set in the context of the Commission's Statute and clearly aimed at further strengthening the Commission and maximizing its ability to support the General Assembly in guiding the common system.

5. The panel of eminent persons should consider ways of better equipping the Commission, within the framework of the Statute, with tools to implement its tasks, while further ensuring the Commission's independence, impartiality and effectiveness.

6. The panel should study and report on ways of enhancing the Commission's capability to reinforce, modernize and thereby strengthen the international civil service to meet new and complex challenges.

Composition of the panel

7. The panel will consist of the following members nominated by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission. Secretariat support will be jointly provided by the secretariats of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and the Commission. The panel will comprise:

Mary Chinery-Hesse (Ghana)	Presently Member of the Eminent Persons Advisory Panel on the transition of the Organization of African Unity to the African Union, Former Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative to several countries, Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Organization. Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Organization.

Phillip Rochat (Switzerland)	Presently Executive Director of the Air Transport Action Group, a non-governmental organization.
	Former Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization.
	Former assistant to the Director General of Civil Aviation of Switzerland.
	Former Director of commercial and financial departments of the Geneva International Airport.
Ernst Sucharipa (Austria)	Presently Head of the Diplomatic Academy of Austria.
	Former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations.
Anatoly V. Torkunov (Russian Federation)	Presently Rector, Moscow State Institute of International Relations.
	Former Ambassador in the Diplomatic Service of the Russian Federation.

The Chairman of the Commission, Mohsen Bel Hadj Amor, will participate in the Panel as an ex officio member.

8. The panel may hold consultations and seek expert advise as required.

Timetable and reporting

9. The Panel will submit its findings and recommendations to the Secretary-General who will report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.